

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 120915Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2860

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1744

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, LA

SUBJ: POSTPONEMENT OF KING'S COUNCIL PLENARY SESSION ON  
DISSOLUTION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

1. ON MARCH 7 THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE KING'S COUNCIL -- WHICH CONVENED JANUARY 22 IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION TO DISCUSS DISSOLUTION OF THE SEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY -- HELD ITS THIRTIETH AND LAST MEETING. THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, WHO HAVE LISTENED TO DOZENS OF WITNESSES FROM THE VIENTIANE SIDE, THE PATHET LAO, THE PRESS, AND A VARIETY OF POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS, MOVED DELIBERATELY TOWARDS THE COMPLETION OF THEIR 70-PAGE FINAL REPORT. THAT REPORT HAS NOW BEEN FORWARDED TO KING'S COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRINCE KHAMMAO.

2. A PLENARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL, WHICH HAD BEEN EXPECTED LATE LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THE FINAL REPORT AND FORWARD IT TO THE KING, HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE FUNERAL OF GENERAL SING RATTANASMY, WHO DIED MARCH 9. (COMMENT:  
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SING WAS ONE OF THE SIX MEMBERS NOMINATED TO THE KING'S

COUNCIL BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. HE HAD BEEN ONE OF THE STRONGEST ANTI-DISSOLUTIONISTS DURING THE RECENT DELIBERATIONS AND APPARENTLY WILL NOT BE REPLACED SINCE THE ASSEMBLY IS, AS PRESS REPORTS PUT IT, NOT IN CONDITION TO TAKE ANY OFFICIAL ACTION. END COMMENT).

3. ACCORDING TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER KHAMTOU SACKDA, WHO SAID HE HAS SEEN THE COUNCIL'S REPORT, THE COUNCIL WILL RECOMMEND AGAINST DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY UNLESS (A) A PROPER ELECTORAL LAW IS DRAFTED AND (B) ELECTIONS ARE HELD WITHIN 90 DAYS OF ANY DISSOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION. THE ACTION AND ASSURANCES NECESSARY TO MEET THESE CONDITIONS WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PGNU.

4. COMMENT: AS KING'S COUNCIL DELIBERATED THE ASSEMBLY ISSUE, IT BECAME INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF ITS MEMBERS -- INCLUDING PRESIDENT PRINCE KHAMMAO -- WERE RELUCTANT TO RECOMMEND DISSOLUTION UNLESS CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES WERE RESPECTED. THIS POSITION WOULD APPEAR TO COINCIDE WITH THE DESIRE OF THE KING HIMSELF, DESPITE REMINDERS BY PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA THAT THE KING LAST DECEMBER ENDORSED DISSOLUTION IN PRINCIPLE. SOUVANNA OF COURSE HAS LONG CONSIDERED THE ASSEMBLY A THORN IN HIS SIDE; THE PL REGARD IT AS ILLEGAL; AND MAY GROUPS (INCLUDING THE STUDENTS', TEACHERS' AND WORKERS' FEDERATIONS, AS WELL AS OTHER MORE MODERATE GROUPS SUCH AS THE NEO THANG NOUM--YOUNG IDEAS--PARTY) HAVE ENDORSED DISSOLUTION. IT IS LIKELY THAT ANY FINAL REPORT FROM THE KING'S COUNCIL WHICH DOES NOT UNEQUIVOCALLY ENDORSE DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY WILL RECIEVE A BARRAGE OF VERBAL ABUSE AND PROBABLY STIMULATE PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS. SOUVANNA HAS PUT A LID ON DEMONSTRATIONS IN GENERAL AND ON ANY HAVING TO DO WITH THE ASSEMBLY IN PARTICULAR, BUT HE MIGHT LOOK THE OTHER WAY  
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IN THE EVENT OF MANIFESTATIONS AGAINST THE COUNCIL'S APPARENT POSITION AND IN FAVOR OF IMMEDIATE DISSOLUTION.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, LA  
**To:** STATE  
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